

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE CALUMET RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HELD AT 6:00p.m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018

Location: HOBART CITY HALL, Hobart, IN

Chairman Baker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. An Executive Session/Work Study Session was held prior to the public meeting. There were seven (7) Commission members present at roll call. Quorum was declared.

Commissioners:

William Baker, Chairman
Tom Wichlinski, Vice Chairman
Tom Gozdecki, Treasurer
Levon Whittaker, Secretary
Ron Ware
Dave Castellanos
Derek Nimetz

Executive Director:

Dan Repay

Attorney:

David Wickland

Staff:

Jodi Lambert

Visitors:

Tom Silich – Hobart Township Trustee
Dean Button – City of Hammond
Ruth Mores - Hammond
Charlie Svitko – Munster
Bob Fulton – City of Hobart
Keith Schuetter – City of Hobart
Paula Isulampi – Hobart Historical Society
John Garcia – Garcia Consulting Engineers
David Nellans – Munster Town Council
Barry Halgrimson – Munster
Michael Jabo - DLZ
Lee Randell - DLZ
Steve Truchan – Gary Bridge & Iron
Karie Koehnke – Patrick Engineering
Tom Ehrhardt – City of Hobart Board of Works
Sam Henderson – Hoosier Environmental Council
Paul Daniels – Advisory Board
Terry Steagall – Highland
Salatore DiBernardo – Ciorba Group
Elizabeth Palacid – East Chicago
Craig Hendrix – S.E.H. Engineering

Approval of Minutes -

Commissioner Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Nimetz; motion passed with 7 aye votes.

Chairman's Report –

Chairman Baker welcomed all to the meeting. He thanked the City of Hobart and Mayor Snedecor for hosting this month's meeting. The City of Hobart was also greatly affected by the 2008 flood event and know firsthand the devastation that can occur and what can happen when maintenance on a \$275 million man-made flood control project is neglected. The Commission meet with communities once a month to make sure we are ready to take on Mother Nature. Keep in mind that when you pour 10 gallons of water into a 5 gallon bucket, problems can occur. But we are far better prepared now than we were in 2008. The Commission's task right now is the ongoing and deferred

maintenance of this regional flood control project so events such as the 2008 flood, do not happen again.

Finance –

Chairman Baker referred to the October claims in the amount of \$674,570.45. Commissioner Gozdecki made a motion to approve the claims as presented; motion seconded by Commissioner Castellanos. Mr. Repay explained a few of the claims starting with payment to DLZ Engineering in the amount of \$83,525.00 for continued engineering design of the Kennedy Avenue Bridge. It is anticipated that this project will be ready to bid out by the end of the year. \$47,955.50 was paid to Patrick Engineering for construction management services on the CFER Bridge over Deep River Project. \$142,185.55 was paid to Ellas Construction Co., for work continued work on the Harrison Street Bridge Project. Wiltjer Excavating submitted a claim in the amount of \$125,320.00 for clearing work on Deep River. USGS was paid \$42,735.00 for the operation and maintenance of 15 stream gages along the system. IHC Construction Companies submitted a claim for the CFER Bridge over Deep River Project in the amount of \$92,834.66. This is the first pay estimate on the \$4.4 million project.

Commissioner Gozdecki asked for an explanation of the work done by Wiltjer Excavating. Mr. Repay stated that extensive work needed to be completed on Deep River due to numerous trees down and debris such as railroad ties and tires in the water. The work is expected to continue next month.

Commissioner Whittaker requested information on the status of the Harrison Avenue Bridge Project. Mr. Repay explained the delay in the project is due to changes in the utility relocations by NIPSCO. Due to the changes, additional permits and approvals were needed. This process may delay the project a few more weeks.

Chairman Baker asked if there were any further questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Executive Director's Report –

Mr. Repay gave updates on some of the projects:

- Work has been substantially completed on the 35th & Chase Grade Adjustment Project and the road is open with just a few punch list items remaining. This project eliminates the need for the post and panel closure at this location.
- The CFER Railroad Bridge over Deep River Project has started. Progress meetings are held every week.
- The Harrison Street Bridge Project has been delayed by NIPSCO utility relocations. We are working with all parties to move the project forward.
- The Clark Road Grade Adjustment Project has started and is expected to be complete by the end of the month.
- The Chase Street Pedestrian Bridge Project is expected to begin shortly. Some tree clearing is necessary before the project can begin. This project is expected to be completed by December 1st.

- We have received preliminary plans on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project. Bids for the project are expected to be opened at our December meeting.
- We received 5 proposals with timelines and budgets in response to our Lake Station Levee RFQ. The proposals will also be reviewed by the City of Lake Station and Lake County Parks.
- Lake County is doing an assessment of Hart Ditch. They have hired Christopher Burke Engineering to help with the process. It is expected that the County will make Hart Ditch a regulated drain.

Presentation -

Bob Fulton from the City of Hobart and representatives from Clarke Aquatics gave a presentation on the potential use of bioaugmentation for Lake George. The City of Hobart would like to start a pilot program using bioaugmentation as a possible alternative to dredging. This process would increase the amount of bacteria into the bottom of the lake to reduce the amount of organic material that settles to the bottom. The complete audio of their presentation can be found on our website at www.littlecalumetriverbasin.org.

Other Issues/New Business –

Sealed price proposals on the Request for Qualifications to Design a Levee in Lake Station were opened. Proposals were received from the following: Christopher Burke Engineering, The Ciorba Group, Patrick Engineering, S.E.H. Engineering and Commonwealth Engineering. The price proposals will be reviewed by the Commission, City of Lake Station and Lake County Parks.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to advertise for bids on the Kennedy Avenue Bridge Project; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware.

This will be a two year project expected to start in 2019. Bids for this project will be opened at our December meeting. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Commissioner Wichlinski made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to seek proposals for tree clearing in Lake Station; motion seconded by Commissioner Ware. Mr. Repay stated that the tree clearing was necessary in order to proceed with the design and construction of a levee that will protect over 250 houses in Lake Station. Chairman Baker asked if there were any questions and called for a roll call vote. Motion passed 7-0.

Statements from the Floor –

Steve Truchan, Gary Bridge & Iron, spoke in opposition to the Maya Energy Project and any other development in the area. He stated the land is flood prone and it is irresponsible to develop that area.

Sam Henderson, Hoosier Environmental Council, asked about the Commission owned property currently available for license. He asked if anyone approached the Commission about the property. Attorney Wickland stated that we are currently testing the waters to see if anyone is interested in the property as it is not needed for the flood control project.

Paula Isulampi, Hobart Historical Society, stated she was disappointed that there wasn't more of an effort to save the arches and bricks from the railroad bridge project.

Brandon Dothager, Highland, spoke in opposition to the Maya Energy Project. He stated that every Commission member he spoke to has passed the buck on making a decision regarding this project. As the property owner, the Commission can make the decision to stop the project.

Elizabeth Palacio, East Chicago, IN, spoke against the Maya Energy Project. She stated that the road will not support the weight of the trucks and asked that the Commission take into account the students at the school right next door.

Terry Steagall, Highland, stated the Commission should take a serious look at all the recreational opportunities available on the Little Calumet River and potential launch areas for boats.

Barry Halgrimson, Munster, requested a list of properties owned by the Commission and which were considered surplus.

Tom Silich, Hobart Trustee, thanked the Commission for their work on Deep River. A lot of downed trees and debris were removed and he was happy to be part of the project.

Statements from the Board –

Commissioner Ware thanked the City of Hobart for hosting the meeting. He also stated that he attended the kick-off meeting for the CFER Bridge and was impressed by the City of Hobart staff and the way they looked out for best interests of the City and the residents.

Commissioner Whittaker thanked the Mayor and City of Hobart for the meeting space. He also congratulated the City on their forward thinking with the use of bioaugmentation. He also stated that the Commission is looking to visit other municipalities in the watershed for our meetings.

Commissioner Wichlinski thanked the City of Hobart for hosting this meeting. He also thanked Mr. Silich for his help in gaining access to the areas of Deep River that were needed for maintenance.

Commissioner Nimetz thanked the Mayor and staff of the City of Hobart for hosting this month's meeting.

Commissioner Gozdecki thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to have our meeting in Hobart. He also thanked everyone who gave comments tonight.

Commissioner Castellanos thanked the City of Hobart for hosting the meeting. He also invited everyone to listen to the Commission radio show on WLTH AM1370 on the 2nd Monday of the month at 9am.

There being no further business, the next meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 14th, at the Munster Town Hall.